

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 9-11 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 are currently being amended. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 9. Claims 2, 5 and 7 are amended to improve their readability without narrowing their scope. Claims 12-18 are being added. No new matter is being added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 and 12-18 are now pending in this application.

Foreign priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledgement applicant's claim to foreign priority.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. Independent claim 1, from which claim 9 depended, has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9. Thus, independent claim 1 is in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 2-8 ultimately depend from claim 1, and are thus likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,600,221 to Kimura ("Kimura"). Claims 2, 5-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,303,996 to Lin ("Lin"). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 10-

11, and the amendment to claim 1 (claims 2-8 ultimately depend from claim 1) to include subject matter indicated as allowable.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

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